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HERSETH RESPONDS TO STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

Praises President's Focus on Ethanol, Health Care, Fiscal Discipline, Troops

February 2, 2005, Washington, D.C. – Representative Stephanie Herseth released the following statement tonight following her attendance of the State of the Union Address:

"I was honored to represent South Dakota at tonight's State of the Union address, and I look forward to a positive, thoughtful debate on the issues outlined by President Bush. I agree with the President that we must take steps to strengthen Social Security, but I have serious concerns about the potential impacts of his plan to privatize Social Security. We can do better.

"The President also presented a number of issues on which I look forward to working with him. I was extremely pleased that the President highlighted ethanol as a key component of our national energy policy. I also appreciated his acknowledgement of the rising cost of health care as a significant problem, and his call to make quality care more affordable and accessible for families. Ethanol and health care are two issues very important to South Dakota, and I hope his words lead to real action. I am pleased that the President also recognizes the need to cut the growing deficit. And lastly, I join the President in honoring the service men and women who have served and who continue to serve our country around the world."

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